

Remarks

The Examiner's reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendment above and comments which follow.

First of all, regarding the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112, as the Examiner has requested, claim 1 has been amended to make it clear that either the abutment means or the receiving means is movable, and that makes it clear that there is not more than one abutment means.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-13, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Honan U.S. Patent No. 5,348,158. Reconsideration is requested.

It is submitted that claim 1 distinguished from Honan because Honan does not disclose biasing means for urging the receiving means into engagement with the blister pack, as required by claim 1.

The Examiner has identified the base portion (13) and cover (12) of Honan as the receiving means of claim 1 of this application. The feature 22 of Honan identified by the examiner as biasing means is stated at column 3, lines 4 and 5 of Honan to be a hinge. The hinge 22 is not stated to urge the base portion (13) and cover (12) into engagement with the blister pack.

Indeed, Honan also states at column 3, lines 8 to 10 that the cover (12) includes a latch (24) which fits into the notch (25) of the base portion (13). The features of the latch and notch would be unnecessary if the base portion (13) and cover (12) were urged into engagement with the blister pack, because this urging would maintain the base portion and cover in the closed position. Thus, claim 1 distinguishes from Honan.

Furthermore, Honan does not disclose biasing means operable to bias jaws into a neutral position, in which they are spaced apart so as to be able to receive a blister pack, as required by claim 1.

The base portion (13) and cover (12) of Honan are joined to one another by a hinge (22). In Figure 4 of Honan, as identified by the examiner, the base portion and

cover have been moved into an open position. They have not been biased into the open position by biasing means that are also operable to urge them into engagement with a blister pack, as required by claim 1.

Claim 1 also would not have been obvious in view of Honan because Honan contains no suggestion of biasing means for urging the receiving means into engagement with the blister pack.

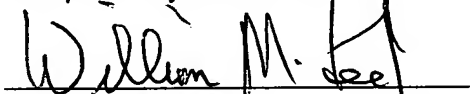
Honan in fact teaches away from the provision of such biasing means. The biasing means of the apparatus of this application are required to maintain the blister pack into position relative to the abutment means during operation of the apparatus. The base portion (13) and the cover (12) of Honan form a box that maintains the blister pack in position during operation of the apparatus. Such biasing means would therefore be unnecessary in the apparatus of Honan.

Finally, it is submitted that Claims 2, 3, 5 to 9 and 11 to 16 are novel and non-obvious in view of Honan by virtue of their dependency from claim 1.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and the Examiner's further and favorable reconsideration in that regard is urged.

December 5, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,



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